may correspond to the one shown in FIG. **30**. As shown, the input device **650** includes a housing **654** and a touch pad assembly **656**. The media player **652** includes a shell or enclosure **658**. The front wall **660** of the shell **658** includes an opening **662** for allowing access to the touch pad assembly **656** when the input device **650** is introduced into the media player **652**. The inner side of the front wall **660** includes a channel or track **664** for receiving the input device **650** inside the shell **658** of the media player **652**. The channel **664** is configured to receive the edges of the housing **654** of the input device **650** so that the input device **650** can be slid into its desired place within the shell **658**. The shape of the channel has a shape that generally coincides with the shape of the housing **654**. During assembly, the circuit board **666** of the touch pad assembly **656** is aligned with the opening **662** and a cosmetic disc **668** and button cap **670** are mounted onto the top side of the circuit board **666**. As shown, the cosmetic disc **668** has a shape that generally coincides with the opening **662**. The input device may be held within the channel via a retaining mechanism such as screws, snaps, adhesives, press fit mechanisms, crush ribs and the like.

[0178] FIG. **36** is a simplified block diagram of a remote control **680** incorporating an input device **682** therein, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. By way of example, the input device **682** may correspond to any of the previously described input devices. In this particular embodiment, the input device **682** corresponds to the input device shown in FIGS. **24**A-**28**, thus the input device includes a touch pad **684** and a plurality of switches **686**. The touch pad **684** and switches **686** are operatively coupled to a wireless transmitter **688**. The wireless transmitter **688** is configured to transmit information over a wireless communication link so that an electronic device having receiving capabilities may receive the information over the wireless communication link. The wireless transmitter **688** may be widely varied. For example, it may be based on wireless technologies such as FM, RF, Bluetooth, 802.11 UWB (ultra wide band), IR, magnetic link (induction) and/or the like. In the illustrated embodiment, the wireless transmitter **688** is based on IR. IR generally refers wireless technologies that convey data through infrared radiation. As such, the wireless transmitter **688** generally includes an IR controller **690**. The IR controller **690** takes the information reported from the touch pad **684** and switches **686** and converts this information into infrared radiation as for example using a light emitting diode **692**.

[0179] FIGS. **37**A and **37**B are diagrams of an input device **700**, in accordance with an alternate embodiment of the present invention. This embodiment is similar to those shown in FIGS. **22**-**29**, however instead of relying on a spring component of a switch, the input device **700** utilizes a separate spring component **706**. As shown, the input device **700** includes a touch pad **702** containing all of its various layers. The touch pad **702** is coupled to a frame **704** or housing of the input device **700** via the spring component **706**. The spring component **706** (or flexure) allows the touch pad **702** to pivot in multiple directions when a force is applied to the touch pad **702** thereby allowing a plurality of button zones to be created. The spring component **706** also urges the touch pad **702** into an upright position similar to the previous embodiments. When the touch pad **702** is depressed at a particular button zone (overcoming the spring force), the touch pad **702** moves into contact with a switch **708** positioned underneath the button zone of the touch pad **702**. Upon contact, the switch **708** generates a button signal. The switch **708** may be attached to the touch pad **702** or the housing **704**. In this embodiment, the switch **708** is attached to the housing **704**. In some cases, a seal **710** may be provided to eliminate crack and gaps found between the touch pad **702** and the housing **704**. The spring component **706** may be widely varied. For example, it may be formed from one or more conventional springs, pistons, magnets or compliant members. In the illustrated embodiment, the spring component **706** takes the form of a compliant bumper formed from rubber or foam.

[0180] While this invention has been described in terms of several preferred embodiments, there are alterations, permutations, and equivalents, which fall within the scope of this invention. It should also be noted that there are many alternative ways of implementing the methods and apparatuses of the present invention. It is therefore intended that the following appended claims be interpreted as including all such alterations, permutations, and equivalents as fall within the true spirit and scope of the present invention.

What is claimed:

1. A portable electronic device, comprising:

a housing; and

a non-rotatable circular input assembly accessible through an opening in the housing, the non-rotatable circular input assembly including

a capacitive ring-shaped touch area configured for detecting a sliding touch of an object along the capacitive ring-shaped touch area, and

a central input area located at a center of the capacitive ring-shaped touch area;

wherein the non-rotatable circular input assembly, including the capacitive ring-shaped touch area and the central input area, is configured for translating in a z-direction with respect to the housing and generating a press input when pressure in the z-direction is applied to the non-rotatable circular input assembly.

2. The portable electronic device of claim **1**, the capacitive ring-shaped touch area further configured with a plurality of zones, each zone for generating a different input signal when touched.

3. The portable electronic device of claim **1**, the capacitive ring-shaped touch area further configured for generating an input signal when tapped.

4. The portable electronic device of claim **1**, further comprising one or more switches coupled to the non-rotatable circular input assembly, the one or more switches configured for activating when the pressure in the z-direction is applied to the non-rotatable circular input assembly.

5. The portable electronic device of claim **1**, the capacitive ring-shaped touch area including a touch sensing electrode layer.

6. The portable electronic device of claim **1**, wherein the housing includes first notches configured for preventing rotation of the circular input assembly.

7. The portable electronic device of claim **1**, further comprising a processor communicatively coupled to the ring-shaped touch area and programmed for executing a zooming operation upon detecting the sliding touch of the object along the ring-shaped touch area.

8. The portable electronic device of claim **1**, further comprising a processor communicatively coupled to the ring-shaped touch area and programmed for executing a